

IRAQ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE
DRAFT IRAQ ICT ALLIANCE WORKSHOP AGENDA
Monday, May 8, 2006
Intercontinental Hotel; Amman, Jordan

- 8:30 Welcome and Introductions
Greg Howell, Global Development Alliance Advisor, USAID/Iraq
- 8:50 ICT Initiatives Implemented Regionally and in Iraq by the United Nations
Najat Rochdi, Regional Coordinator, ICT4D in Arab Region – ICTDAR, UNDP
- 9:10 USAID’s Global Development Alliances and Development Activities in Iraq
Dawn Liberi, Mission Director, USAID/Iraq
- 9:30 The Government of Iraq’s ICT Strategy
Dr. Mahmood Sharief; Director General, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Iraq
- 9:50 Tea/Coffee
- 10:15 Implementing ICT Projects in Iraq
- Aziz Nasiri, RiTS
 - Delair Adib, IraqCom
 - Ali Zaid, Oracle
 - Dr. Greg Robins, BearingPoint
- 11:15 Promoting ICT Development in Iraq
- Fadi Moubarak, Cisco Systems
 - Amir AlKaram, Intel
 - Dr. Fiaz Alawy, Iraq ICT Association
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:00 New Activities for the Iraq ICT Alliance
Moderator: Tim Walsh, Computer Associates
- Training: End User
 - Training: Networking Technician
 - Training: Programmer
 - Training: Youth
- 3:20 Tea/Coffee
- 3:40 New Activities for the Iraq ICT Alliance
Moderator: Hamed Diab, HP
- Applications: Procurement Portal
 - Applications: Government Data Center
 - Services: Internet Access
 - Products: PC Factory
- 5:00 The Way Forward
Greg Howell, Global Development Alliance Advisor, USAID/Iraq
- 6:30 Reception

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OVERVIEW

MISSION		
To promote development of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Iraq		
OBJECTIVE		
Following three wars and over a decade of economic sanctions, Iraq's infrastructure and human capacity related to information and communication technology is extremely limited. The Iraq ICT Alliance seeks to bring together multinational companies, multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as Iraqi government, business, and educational organizations promote greater collaboration and cooperation within the ICT sector in Iraq. This Alliance encourages the formation of new and expansion of existing development partnerships with a focus on training programs for Iraqi women and youth. The overall goal of the Alliance is for the ICT sector to serve as a catalyst for economic growth in Iraq.		
PARTNERS		
Multinational Companies	Iraqi Organizations	International Donor Agencies
BearingPoint Cisco Systems Computer Associates CyberLearning HP Intel Microsoft Motorola Oracle Tejari.com Verizon	Government of Iraq CIO Council Group Kufan IComPort InterGlobe IraqCom Iraqi ICT Association Near East Resources RiTS	UNDP/ICTDAR UN/ESCWA/Iraq Task Force UNIFEM USAID USTDA
EVENTS		
April 26-May 5: Iraq E-Learning Orientation Visit to San Francisco and Washington DC sponsored by USTDA May 8: Iraq ICT Alliance workshop and launch in Amman May 9-10: Rebuild Iraq conference and exhibition in Amman with a session on ICT issues (www.rebuild-iraq-expo.com) May 14-17: "Making Connections in the Middle East and North Africa" ICT Conference in Muscat sponsored by USTDA. June 26-28: US-Arab Economic Forum in Houston with a session on ICT issues (www.usaeforum.org)		
PROJECT PLAN		
January-February: Research and planning February 26-27: USAID/Iraq to meet with partners in Dubai February 28: USAID/Iraq to meet with partners and finalize May 8 meeting venue in Amman March/April: Design Iraq ICT Alliance website March/April: Finalize invitation list for May 8 workshop and confirm attendees May 8: Conduct Iraq ICT Alliance workshop and launch in Amman May 9-10: Promote the Alliance at the Rebuild Iraq conference and exhibition in Amman with a session on ICT issues May 14-17: Promote the Alliance at the ICT Conference in Muscat sponsored by USTDA. June 26-28: Promote the Alliance at the US-Arab Economic Forum in Houston with a session on ICT issues May-October: Implement ICT development activities		
ALLIANCE CO-ORDINATOR		
Greg Howell Global Development Alliance Advisor USAID/Iraq Office: +1-202-216-6276 x1043 Home: +1-202-216-6276 x1207 Cell: +964-790-191-9964 (Iraq) +962-79-930-7749 (Jordan) Fax: +1-202-216-6276 x1208 Email: ghowell@usaid.gov		

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CURRENT ICT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ

USAID	Formalize regulations to establish a National CIO and CIOs within each government Ministry and build the capacity of these positions through the CIO Council.
	Assisted in the implementation of a restructuring plan for the Ministry of Communication and strengthened the capacity of the MOC as well as the Iraqi Telecommunications Regulator (NCMC).
	Installed an automated Financial Management System for the Government of Iraq including a data center at the Ministry of Finance, hardware and software for all sites, and Virtual Private Network for the initial 54 sites.
	Upgraded the IT system to support the implementation of a Social Safety Net system to cover up to one million poor households.
	Produced an online Business Registration system in Baghdad, Erbil, and Sulamaniya: www.br-iraq.com
	Finalize website for publication of the Official Gazette of the Ministry of Justice.
	Assessed the IT needs of MOLSA, prepared the procurement acquisition for the Social Security IT unit in the Social Security office to cover Baghdad contributors, and will establish a data capture unit in Baghdad.
	Created an Insurance Regulatory Commission website.
	Worked with the Central Bank of Iraq to enhance database management skills.
	Implemented an automated administration system for the Reconstruction Levy on behalf of the General Commission for Customs including all necessary hardware and VSAT communication links between customs posts and Baghdad.
	Created WiMax private network, network infrastructure, and website for the Iraqi Securities Commission
	Developed network infrastructure, a VSAT Internet connection, and computer systems for the Iraqi Union of Accountants and Auditors as well as the network infrastructure and web presence for the Iraqi Association of Security Dealers.
	Implemented a computer system with VSAT Internet connectivity and a website for the Iraqi Trade Information Center and the Investment Promotion Agency.
	Produced a customized Iraqi training book for use of Excel designed for accountants and accounting students.
	Assisted the Ministry of Minerals with computer systems and a website.
US Department of State	Through WiRED International , installed 19 Medical Information Centers in Iraq and in Fall 2005 finalized arrangements for an additional 20 facilities. Funding for these projects is generously provided by the Medtronic Foundation, the Department of State, Pfizer, The Christopher Reeve Foundation, and the generosity of individual donors.
	Developed the Iraqi Virtual Science Library (IVSL) , a free resource for scientists and educators in Iraq, through a partnership with publishers, computer firms, universities, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the U.S. Government has made this project possible
Cisco Systems/ United Nations ESCWA Iraq Task Force	Equipped four Regional and six local Networking Academies and planning to establish thirty-four additional academies across Iraq.
Intel	Donated ninety laptop computers to the Iraqi ICT Association in Baghdad.
Oracle	Provided technology and curriculum to Iraqi universities, training to more than 200 government officials on various software applications, as well as industry specific workshops for oil, aviation, and health care sectors.
UNESCO/Qatar Foundation	Installed 62 computer labs in 37 Iraqi Higher Education Institutions. Official delivery of 44 labs in Baghdad is done (29 student labs + 15 internet labs), and delivery of 18 labs outside Baghdad is also complete (13 student labs + 5 internet labs).
	Establishing connectivity and Internet access for 37 remote sites in Iraq (referenced above) including student Labs, university campuses and other educational locations across Iraq.

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PROPOSED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

TRAINING: End Users	The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has programs related to unemployment as well as social safety including vocational training facilities where incentives are provided to low income and the unemployed to gain new skills. Given the significant void in the area of skilled IT professionals in Iraq, even the most basic skills associated with using a computer are often not available. A few of the vocational centers could be selected to offer basic computer skills including typing when needed; thereby producing people who have the requisite skills to be employed in government and commerce. These training programs should focus on women and result in a certification of either a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) or Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician (MCDST) with a ratio of 9 MOS to 1 MCDST.
TRAINING: Programmers	There are very few trained programmers in Iraq mainly because there are almost no accredited training centers where IT students can receive certified courses on Microsoft, Oracle, UNIX and other advanced applications. A concerted effort needs to be made to create new training centers with formal testing areas in order to expand the pool of qualified Iraqi computer programmers.
TRAINING: Network Technicians	The Cisco Network Academy program should be continued and expanded.
TRAINING: Enterprise Architecture	Partner support in the form of Enterprise Architecture tools, education, and consulting to describe and model the baseline architecture for local and national government applications would be beneficial to Government Chief Information Officers.
TRAINING: Youth	The establishment of youth-oriented IT clubs to provide access to the Internet in a structured environment and to teach basic or even intermediate computer skills would assist in the development of computer literacy and provide an outlet for youth interaction in a positive social setting.
APPLICATIONS: Procurement Portal	The Government of Iraq's procurement capabilities are somewhat limited and managed individually by Ministry. A centralized online procurement system could be piloted to encourage more Ministries to utilize technology to improve transparency and efficiency in procurement processes. Tejari.com is one such portal that originated in the UAE and has been replicated in several countries in the region.
APPLICATIONS: Government Data Center	A centralized data center for the Iraqi Government would need capacity to handle Government-wide systems such as IFMIS, payroll, HRMIS, Government-wide email and web hosting for the establishment of a Government portal for e-Government initiatives. This project would also require the establishment of a robust intranet for Government and the establishment of user cafes in Government buildings to encourage the use of e-Government services. Alongside the data centre, training facilities as well as application development and testing labs would support these activities.
SERVICES: Internet Access	Currently in Iraq, high-speed Internet access is expensive and difficult to obtain. A concerted effort is required to provide Internet access to high school and university students as well as other disadvantaged groups.
PRODUCTS: PC Factory	In order to generate employment, utilize excess productive capacity, reduce piracy of hardware and software, and create a "Made In Iraq" brand, a personal computer factory could be established in Baghdad which would be owned and operated by Iraqis and supported by multinational companies. The output from this factory would be sold locally with primary target markets being government offices and educational institutions.